

AMENDED CLAIMS

[Received by the International Bureau on 27 OCT 2003 (27.10.03) ;
original claim 1, amended ; original claims 2, 3 and 6 to 11, unchanged ;
original claims 4, 5 and 12, cancelled]

1. An item of footwear (10) comprising in combination:

- an outsole (11) having in its forepart at least a vent opening (12) which is made through the thickness of said outsole (11),
- a grating-like element (13) which is set into said vent opening (12) and acts as a screen by separating and protecting the inside of the footwear from the ground which comes into contact with said outsole (11),
- a pliable sheet insert (15) made from a breathable and water-repellent leather material which is embedded into the outsole (11) and is positioned inside the outsole (11) so as to overlie said vent opening (12),
- an insole (16) made of a breathable and water-repellent leather, leatherboard or fibreboard material, and
- an upper (17) made of a breathable and water-repellent leather material or a combination thereof with synthetic materials such as foam polymers and nylon or polyester mesh bonded together in a laminated form.

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2. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein said grating-like element (13) is formed of juxtaposed straight or curved, parallel or latticed bar elements (14) which are integral with the outsole (11) and are produced together therewith.

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3. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein said grating-like element (13) is formed of juxtaposed straight or curved, parallel or latticed bar elements (14) which are integral with an insert intended to be inserted into said vent opening (12) in the outsole (11) and fixed therein.
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4. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein said insole (16) is provided with through holes (18) located in the forepart thereof which aid to
10 moisture breathability of the insole.
5. An item of footwear according to claim 1, wherein said insole (16) is covered by an insock (19).
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6. An item of footwear according to claim 5, wherein said insock (19) is formed of layers of different materials joined together by a stitching seam.
7. An item of footwear according to claim 6, wherein said insock (19) comprises at least a top layer made of leather and a bottom layer made of
20 ethylene vinyl acetate.
8. An item of footwear according to claim 6, wherein the insock (19) is provided with a heel cushioning pad (20) located in its back part.

9. An item of footwear according to claim 6, wherein said insock (19) is
5 provided with through holes (21) located in its forepart which aid to
moisture breathability of the insock.